Problem Statements

HIGHWAY

US 601 Proposed improvements from south of I-74 to E Atkins Street (SR 1100)

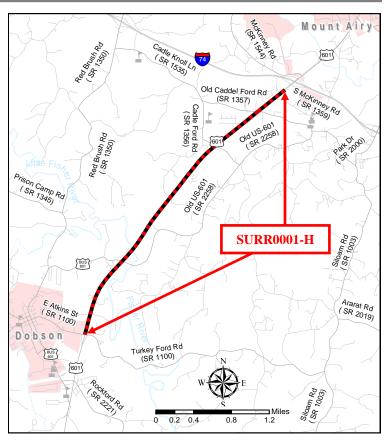
Local ID: SURR0001-H Last Updated: 1/31/2012

Identified Problem

US 601 is projected to be near or over capacity by 2040 from south of I-74 to US 601 Business. The primary purpose of this project is to relieve congestion on the existing facility such that a minimum of LOS D can be achieved.

Justification of Need

US 601 is a major north-south corridor in Surry County, connecting Mount Airy with rural areas in the county. US 601 is currently a four lane divided boulevard with 12-foot lanes for a short distance south of I-74, and a two-lane major thoroughfare with 12-foot lanes to East Atkins Street (SR 1100). It is part of the statewide tier of the NC Multimodal Investment Network (NCMIN)¹. Facilities on the statewide tier serve long-distance trips, connect regional



centers, have the highest usage, and mostly serve mobility as opposed to land access.

By 2040 the facility is projected to be near or over capacity from south of I-74 to the US 601 Business based on providing a LOS D. Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) is projected to increase in range from 10,000 to 15,000 vehicles per day (vpd) in 2010 to 14,000 to 25,000 vpd in 2040, compared to a LOS D capacity of 15,800 vpd.

Community Vision and Problem History

The US 601 corridor is the primary connection between Mount Airy, the county's largest municipality, and Dobson, the county seat. As such, locals expect moderate growth into the future. In addition, the corridor provides access to the south central portion of rural Surry County. The 1998 Mount Airy Thoroughfare Plan first identified the deficiency along the corridor.